

HB 1172

When I saw this bill and 1120 my heart skipped a beat. Never in a million years did I think I would be standing in front of a legislative committee defending the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance is a patriotic verse that is recited that promises allegiance or loyalty to the Flag of the United States of America that was written by Captain George Thatcher Balch a Union Army officer in 1885 and had a slightly different text than the current Pledge. That first version read **I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty, and justice for all.** In 1892 it was changed to, **to the Republic.** In 1923 **the United States of America** was added the flag of. The final change came in 1954 when President Dwight Eisenhower sign into law the addition of **under God** after one nation.

And so now we have the current Pledge of Allegiance. **I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.**

My Family tree shows that I had relatives in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, Vietnam

including myself and my grandson is in the Marines With the exception of me and my grandson the others are rolling over in their graves.

I suspect we are today because of recent headlines in the news over the past couple of years. Basically, we have been reciting this Pledge since 1885 as a tool in developing a sense of patriotism in our young people.

The main reason for saying the Pledge is to instill or reinforce a sense of patriotism towards this country.

It is far from being an oath which can bind the person against what we are saying. it is a pledge a nonbinding promise to do something. Saying the pledge is merely a promise to be loyal or respectful to this country. By standing you are showing the utmost respect for both this country and YOUR flag. You are also recognizing that it took blood sweat and tears to get and kept the freedoms we have today. I believe that majority of those I represent would agree.

The game Jenga which I'm sure many of us have played involves building a tower with 54 blocks of equal length and width each containing a small imperfection. The object of the game is to after building the tower the players remove a piece from the tower and place it top

of the tower continuing this process in the hope of rebuilding the tower without collapse. It is nearly impossible to achieve. I use this illustration to describe what I have and am seeing in this country, In, recent decades a portion of our society is attempting to change things in this county that don't fit their ideology. Granted these things may not be perfect, they have held this country not only defined us but also have held us together for 246 years. Like the in game Jenga every time a log is moved to a different location it weakens the structure. That slight imperfection was okay in is original location. However, after repeated movement of other logs we run the risk of the tower collapsing

The NDVLC urges a yes vote.